

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 14 NAC AGENDA ITEM I-POLITICAL SUBJECTS: ICELAND-UK
FISHERIES AGREEMENT

1. IN NOVEMBER 14 MORNING NAC SESSION, UK AND ICELANDIC PERMREPS BOTH MADE STATEMENTS WELCOMING THE SIGNING OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEIR GOVERNMENTS ON THE ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE. PECK (UK) INVITED ATTENTION TO PRIME MINISTER HEATH'S COMMONS STATEMENT WELCOMING THE FISHERIES SETTLEMENT AND EXPRESSED UK GRATITUDE TO ALLIES AND NATO ITSELF FOR HELPING AGREEMENT ALONG. TOMASSON (ICELAND) EXPRESSED HIS OWN GRATITUDE THAT, UNLIKE PERIODS IN PAST, HE WAS ABLE TO FULLY SECOND ALL OF THE UK PERMREP'S REMARKS ON THE FISHERIES ISSUE. HE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS AN INTERIM ACCORD ONLY AND THAT IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE UK AND ICELANDIC GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO SEE EYE TO EYE OVER THE LONG TERM SINCE THE AGREEMENT DID NOT PERMANENTLY RESOLVE THE POINTS AT ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE APPRECIATED FACT THAT PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE HAD AGREED TO AVOID INCIDENTS AT SEA AND WELCOMED THE PROSPECT THAT, FOR NEXT TWO WINTERS AT LEAST, FISHERMEN COULD PLY THEIR TRADE WITH LESS RISK AND GREATER SAFETY.

2. TOMASSON SAID AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN UK AND SECRET

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ICELAND IN LARGE PART BECAUSE THEY WERE BOTH MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. HE SPECIFICALLY THANKED UK PERMREP PECK WHO NEVER LET NATIONAL DIFFERENCES DESCEND TO THE PERSONAL LEVEL AND HE GAVE CREDIT TO THE "ATMOSPHERE IN THIS HOUSE" WHICH HAD PERMITTED

USEFUL CONTACTS TO CONTINUE BETWEEN ICELAND AND THE UK. THE ICELANDIC PERMREP ALSO THANKED COUNCIL DEAN DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) FOR HIS PERSONAL HELP AND FOR BELGIUM'S ROLE IN MOVING FIRST TO SIGN A NEW FISHING AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND. HE THANKED THE NORWEGIAN AND DANISH GOVERNMENTS FOR SIMILAR ACTION WHICH HAD, IN PART, PAVED THE WAY FOR THE UK-ICELANDIC INTERIM AGREEMENT. HE HOPED THAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS WOULD FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE. TOMASSON RESERVED HIGHEST PRAISE WHICH HE LAVISHED ON SYG LUNS, TERMING LATTER'S ROLE AS "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" IN PERMITTING AGREEMENTS ACHIEVING THIS NEW AGREEMENT.

3. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) THANKED THE UK AND ICELANDIC PERMREPS FOR THEIR GOOD NEWS WHICH HE TERMED AS RARE AS IT WAS WELCOME.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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